

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Currently Amended) A multimeter instrument for measuring a plurality of variables, the instrument comprising:

a plurality of measurement means, each measurement means being associated with a respective variable,

a device for selection of the variable to be measured, ~~a selection device~~ and having touch-sensitive zones for selection of the variable to be measured, ~~and~~

a plurality of input sockets,

means for activating the measurement means associated with the variable selected and including

touch-sensitive selection zones,

a microprocessor, and

a switching circuit connecting the input sockets to the measurement means and controlled by the microprocessor as a function of commands from the touch-sensitive selection zones, wherein each touch-sensitive selection zone includes means for activating the microprocessor.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) The instrument according to Claim 1, wherein the variables are subdivided into several families, the touch-sensitive selection zones comprise touch-sensitive family zones for selection of a family of variables, and touch-sensitive menu zones for selection of a variable within a family.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A multimeter instrument according to Claim 5 for measuring a plurality of variables, the instrument comprising:

a plurality of measurement means, each measurement means being associated with a respective variable,

a device for selection of the variable to be measured, and having touch-sensitive zones for selection of the variable to be measured,

means for activating the measurement means associated with the variable selected and including touch-sensitive selection zones,

a plurality of input sockets,  
means of measuring electrical current,  
a current input socket used when the means of measuring electrical current is  
selected,

a measurement cord selectively connectable at a connecting end to one of the  
sockets, and

means for detecting connection of the connecting end of the cord to the current  
input socket, wherein

the current input socket has two half-sockets electrically isolated from one  
another,

the connecting end of the cord includes a plug for short-circuiting the two  
half-sockets when the connecting end of the cord is connected to the current input socket,  
~~and~~

the detection means detects the short-circuiting of the two half-sockets,  
the means for activating the measuring means includes a microprocessor,

and

each touch-sensitive selection zone includes means for activating the  
microprocessor.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The A instrument according to Claim 5~~ for measuring a  
plurality of variables, the instrument comprising:

a plurality of measurement means, each measurement means being associated with  
a respective variable,

a device for selection of the variable to be measured, and having touch-sensitive  
zones for selection of the variable to be measured,

means for activating the measurement means associated with the variable selected  
and including touch-sensitive selection zones,

a plurality of input sockets,

means of measuring electrical current,

a current input socket used when the means of measuring electrical current is  
selected,

a measurement cord selectably connectable at a connecting end to one of the  
sockets, and

means for detecting connection of the connecting end of the cord to the current  
input socket, wherein

the means for activating the measuring means automatically activates the means of measuring electrical current when the detection means detects the connection of the connecting end of the cord to the current input socket and ~~that~~ current was selected by the device for selection ~~device~~.

the means for activating the measuring means includes a microprocessor,  
and

each touch-sensitive selection zone includes means for activating the microprocessor.

8. (Previously Presented) The instrument according to Claim 6, wherein one of the two half-sockets of the current input socket can be electrically connected to a reference input socket via a series-connected main fuse and secondary fuse, the secondary fuse being opened at a voltage no more than half the voltage opening the main fuse.

9. (Previously Presented) The instrument according to Claim 4, wherein the touch-sensitive family zones are arranged in a circle.

10. (Previously Presented) The instrument according to Claim 9, comprising light indicators arranged in a circle proximate the touch-sensitive family zones, for indicating the family to which the variable selected by the means for activating the measurement means corresponds.

11. (New) The instrument according to Claim 1, wherein the touch-sensitive family zones are arranged in a circle.

12. (New) The instrument according to Claim 11, comprising light indicators arranged in a circle proximate the touch-sensitive family zones, for indicating the family to which the variable selected by the means for activating the measurement means corresponds.

13. (New) The instrument according to Claim 6, wherein the means for activating the measuring means automatically activates the means of measuring electrical current when the detection means detects the connection of connecting end of the cord to the current input socket and that current was selected by the selection device.

14. (New) The instrument according to Claim 6, wherein the touch-sensitive family zones are arranged in a circle.

15. (New) The instrument according to Claim 14, comprising light indicators arranged in a circle proximate the touch-sensitive family zones, for indicating the family to which the variable selected by the means for activating the measurement means corresponds.

16. (New) The instrument according to Claim 7, wherein the current input socket has two half-sockets electrically isolated from one another, and one of the two half-sockets can be electrically connected to a reference input socket via a series-connected main fuse and secondary fuse, the secondary fuse being opened at a voltage no more than half the voltage opening the main fuse.

17. (New) The instrument according to Claim 7, wherein the touch-sensitive family zones are arranged in a circle.

18. (Previously Presented) The instrument according to Claim 17, comprising light indicators arranged in a circle proximate the touch-sensitive family zones, for indicating the family to which the variable selected by the means for activating the measurement means corresponds.